

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Olney Town Council, The Olney Centre, High Street, Olney MK46 4EF
Tel: 01234 711679 Email: townclerk@olneytowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.olneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of **Olney Town Council held** at The Olney Centre on **Monday 6th October 2025 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Whitworth (Chair), Bethune, Chennells, Hillier, Lowe, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Shaw and Tennant

Absent: None

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor McLean and two members of the public

Public forum: None

OTC25/10/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Diamandopoulos, Stone and Tyler

OTC25/10/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC25/10/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 1st September 2025

Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, Cllr Chennells seconded, that the minutes of 1st September 2025 be approved. All in favour.

OTC25/10/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr McLean reported that the national government's New Towns Plan had been made public, with areas in Milton Keynes being proposed for regeneration, growth and expansion, predominantly in Central Milton Keynes, Milton Keynes East and Milton Keynes West.

On a similar note, Ward Cllr McLean reported that MKCC are holding a scrutiny meeting this week regarding their own New City Plan, with representatives of ward, town and parish councils then due to be invited to a further meeting and presentation of a revised draft version of the plan on 5th November.

Ward Cllr McLean continued with news of the Petsoe Windfarm fund committee resigning, and disbanding the committee, handing over all documentation and presenting a cheque for the balance of their fund to MKCC. MKCC are now considering their options, with the possibility of handing control of this fund to the MK Community Foundation.

Ward Cllr McLean's report concluded with news that works on the A509 near to Sherington would start on 13th October for a period of 3 weeks.

Cllr Whitworth, in her role as Ward Cllr, reported briefly on the New Town plan, reassuring councillors and residents that Olney and surrounding villages were not currently part of most significant changes for Milton Keynes.

Resolved: Noted

Signed: Cllr D Whitworth

3rd November 2025

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OTC25/10/5: To receive a PCSOs report

No report received

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, to approve the expenditure report. All voted in favour.

Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, to approve the budget to date. All voted in favour.

OTC25/10/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Prosser reported that she, and residents of the Ann Hopkins Smith alms-houses, had attended a cheese and wine evening.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for July/August 2025: Bridge Street, 30mph (travelling northbound) – average speed of 546,815 vehicles was 24.77mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 30.3mph; High Street, 30mph (outside Maya restaurant, travelling southbound) – average speed of 233,901 vehicles was 18.55mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 23mph; Yardley Road, 20mph (outside Olney Middle School, travelling northbound) – average speed of 45,848 vehicles was 20.02mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 24mph.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/9: To receive an update on river water testing

Cllr Whitworth reported that Olney and Clifton Fishing Association continue to work closely with Environment Agency and scientific officer John Finlay.

Electroconductivity readings range from 700 to 1000 (ideally at levels of 500) due to impurities.

Phosphate readings remain poor, and only twice in 3 years have these readings come back anything better than poor.

Nitrate readings in 3 years have never come back anything lower than 5 parts per million, with readings of 1 part per million being good.

Cllr Whitworth continues to engage with Environment Agency, as well as the local MP, but water authorities remain lacking in overall responses.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/10: To receive an update on the Yardley Manor development

Cllr Whitworth reported that brickwork on the community centre had commenced, permanent site kerbs had now been installed, and a permanent site manager is now in post.

MKCC have started to investigate any alleged breaches of planning control and maintain a position of the potential to seek further enforcement should these investigations deem it necessary.

OTC and MKCC continue to engage with developers and the resident steering group, with developers currently confident of remaining on track to complete the community centre in February 2026.

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Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/11: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse

Town Clerk reported that meetings with contractors revealed that proposed build costs had increased, due to additional structural costs.

Regarding the proposed Padel facility, councillors were presented with an updated draft proposal for the construction of two Padel courts, income from this contributing to the refurbishment costs.

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that OTC convey a preference for clear glass/Perspex sides to any proposed plans for the courts. All in favour.

OTC25/10/12: To receive an update from the tree working group

OTC await a response from MKCC regarding the group's initial report.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/13: To consider co-option application

Town Clerk reported that the applicant's circumstances had recently changed since applying and had therefore withdrawn their application.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/10/14: To advise of upcoming events

Resolved: Noted that outdoor nativity would be taking place at the Guinea orchard in December, and that the Lifepath event in Glebe Field would return in 2026. Cllr Whitworth requested councillor volunteers for help with traffic management and handing out orders of service at the Remembrance Sunday Service. Cllrs Hillier, Rodden and Rowland volunteered.

OTC25/10/15: To consider DYL applications

Resolved: Spring Lane – request withdrawn. East Street – OTC to respond to applicant, suggesting they request a white line with MKCC. Coneygere/Church Street – resident to report to 101 as this parking is an offence and it was thought that lines would make no difference to this type of parking.

OTC25/10/16: To approve the draft design for the Market bus shelter artworks

Resolved: All voted in favour to approve the draft design

OTC25/10/17: To approve an artificial Christmas tree for the Market Place

Resolved: All voted in favour of purchasing an artificial Christmas tree

OTC25/10/18: To consider purchasing a groomer

Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, the purchaser of a groomer. All voted in favour.

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OTC25/10/19: To consider the Olney sign at the Market Place

Resolved: Town clerk to contact original sign creator, Jeremy Turner, regarding a possible repair.

OTC25/10/20: To consider a fence and gate to the front of Preschool

Resolved: All voted in favour to the construction of a fence and gate to the front of Preschool to allow the children safe access to the garden.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm

Next meeting Monday 3rd November 2025